

Application No. 09/557,696

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 38-68 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5-7 are amended, and new claims 58-68 are added. The amendment of claim 1 is supported by the specification, for example, at page 10, lines 14-16, page 24, lines 5-7 and page 25, lines 6-7. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate some of the features of claim 5, as filed. The amendment of claim 5 is supported by the specification, for example, at page 24, lines 5-9. Claims 6 and 7 are amended to change the dependency based on the amendment of claim 1.

New claims 58-60 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 1-15, page 6, lines 18-22, page 7, lines 19-21 and page 22, lines 12-19. New claims 61 and 66 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 16, lines 3-16. New claims 62 and 67 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 9, lines 13-19. New claims 63 and 68 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 11, lines 3-6. New claims 64 and 65 are supported by the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 1-15, page 6, lines 18-22, page 7, lines 19-21, page 8, lines 1-4, page 10, lines 24-32, page 20, lines 10-16, page 20, line 33 to page 21, line 2 and page 27, line 32 to page 28, line 3. No new matter is introduced by the amendment of the claims or by the new claims.

Claims 5-9, 11, 13-15, 45-52 and 55 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 1-4, 10, 12, 38-44, 53, 54, 56 and 57 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection based on the following comments.

Rejections Over Marsh et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 10, 12, 38-44, 53, 54, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 4,649,037 to Marsh et al. (the Marsh patent). The Examiner asserts that different reactants may be added to the stream admixture of the apparatus of the Marsh patent to produce products with different properties. The Examiner

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further asserts that it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use different collectors to collect different products to avoid cross contamination. The Marsh patent does not render the present claims prima facie obvious for the reasons of record. However, to advance prosecution of the case, Applicants have amended claim 1 to more particularly point out their invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection based on the following comments.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the nature of the claimed invention. In particular, Applicants have added some features similar to the features that had been in claim 5 as filed into claim 1. In the Office Action of February 27, 2002, claim 5 was indicated to be allowable. Since the Marsh patent does not teach or suggest a nozzle that moves relative to two collectors, the Marsh patent does not render the present claims prima facie obvious.

With respect to claim 38 and claims depending therefrom, the Examiner has not indicated how the Marsh patent renders the claims obvious. Specifically, while the Examiner included claim 38 in the rejection over the Marsh patent, the Examiner did not indicate how the Marsh patent is applied against claim 38 or claims depending from claim 38 that recite the collection of a plurality of materially different product compositions in a single collector. The Office Action of February 27, 2002 did not assert a prima facie case of obviousness against these claims. Furthermore, these claims are not obvious over the Marsh patent since the Marsh patent does not teach or suggest all of the features of these claims.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 10, 12, 38-44, 53, 54, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Marsh patent.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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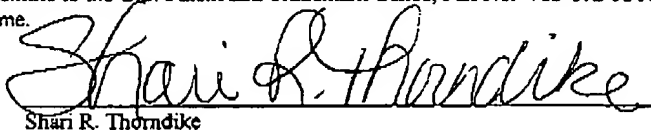
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May 28, 2002
Date


Shari R. Thorndike

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ATTACHMENT
MARKED-UP AMENDMENTClaims As Amended

Claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for obtaining a plurality of quantities of compositions with an apparatus comprising a plurality of collectors and a nozzle comprising a reactant inlet, the method comprising:

reacting a first quantity of fluid reactants within a fluid stream to form a first quantity of product composition;

collecting the first quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a first collector;

moving the nozzle relative to the first collector and second collector following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition;

following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition, reacting a second quantity of fluid reactants within the fluid stream to form a second quantity of product composition, the second quantity of product composition being materially different from the first quantity of product composition; and

collecting the second quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a second collector.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nozzle comprises a plurality of reactant inlets [the apparatus comprises a nozzle that moves relative to the plurality of collectors and wherein the nozzle is moved relative to the first collector and second collector following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition].

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6. (Amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the nozzle remains fixed and the collectors are moved relative to the nozzle.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the collectors remain fixed and the nozzle is moved relative to the collectors.

New claims 58-68 have been added.

--58. (New) A method for obtaining a plurality of quantities of compositions with an apparatus comprising a plurality of collectors and a reactant delivery system comprising a first quantity of fluid reactants and a second quantity of fluid reactants, the method comprising:

reacting the first quantity of fluid reactants within a fluid stream to form a first quantity of product composition;

collecting the first quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a first collector;

following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition,

reacting the second quantity of fluid reactants within the fluid stream to form a second quantity of product composition, the second quantity of product composition being materially different from the first quantity of product composition, wherein the second quantity of fluid reactant is different from the first quantity of fluid reactants; and

collecting the second quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a second collector.

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59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the first quantity of fluid reactants comprises a different proportion of compounds relative to the second quantity of fluid reactants.

60. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the first quantity of fluid reactants comprises different compounds than the second quantity of fluid reactants.

61. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the apparatus comprises a nozzle that moves relative to the plurality of collectors and wherein the nozzle is moved relative to the first collector and second collector following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition.

62. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the apparatus has a radiation path defined by a radiation source and directing optical elements and wherein the reacting of the fluid reactants involves interacting radiation from the radiation source with the reactants.

63. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising evaluating the properties of the first quantity of product composition and the second quantity of product composition.

64. (New) A method for obtaining a plurality of quantities of compositions with an apparatus comprising a plurality of collectors and a reaction chamber isolated from the ambient environment, the method comprising:

reacting a first quantity of fluid reactants within a fluid stream to form a first quantity of product composition;

collecting the first quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a first collector;

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following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition, reacting a second quantity of fluid reactants within the fluid stream to form a second quantity of product composition, the second quantity of product composition being materially different from the first quantity of product composition, wherein at least one reaction condition during the formation of the second quantity of product compositions is different from the reaction condition during the formation of the first quantity of product compositions and wherein the reaction chamber remains isolated from the ambient environment continuously from the reacting of the first quantity of reactants and through the reacting of the second quantity of reactants; and collecting the second quantity of product composition from the fluid stream using a second collector.

65. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the at least one reaction condition is selected from the group consisting of pressure, reactant flux, reactant temperature, amount of inert diluent, amount of radiation absorbing gas, and energy input.

66. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the apparatus comprises a nozzle that moves relative to the plurality of collectors and wherein the nozzle is moved relative to the first collector and second collector following completion of the collection of the first quantity of product composition.

67. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the apparatus has a radiation path defined by a radiation source and directing optical elements and wherein the reacting of the fluid reactants involves interacting radiation from the radiation source with the reactants.

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68. (New) The method of claim 64 further comprising evaluating the properties of the first quantity of product composition and the second quantity of product composition.--